

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to acknowledge the telephone interview conducted on May 6, 2010 between the Examiner Mr. Tuan Ho, and their attorney Ms. Linda J. Hodge. During the interview, the Examiner informed Applicants' attorney that claims 1-9 were found allowable, and that claim 10 should be canceled. Subsequently the outstanding Office Communication was mailed on May 11, 2010. Accordingly, Applicants canceled claim 10, in order to obtain an early allowance of the claims of record.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claim 10 will have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of the subject matter. Claim 10 was previously withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a Restriction Requirement issued by the Examiner. In accordance with the requirements set forth in the Office Communication of May 11, 2010, claim 10 has now been canceled so as to place the present application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, as, by the cancellation of the above noted non-elected and withdrawn from consideration claims, the present application is both in condition for allowance and in proper form for allowance. An action to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In response to the Reasons for Allowance attached to the outstanding Office Communication, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present invention.

In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication of allowability, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recites a

combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the combination of features recited therein.

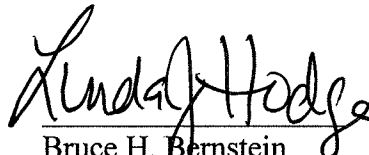
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have canceled the non-elected claims without prejudice or disclaimer and requested passage of the present application to allowance, in due course.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Shuji SHIRANO et al.

 Linda J. Hodge
Reg. #47,348
Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

May 25, 2010
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, Virginia 20191
(703) 716-1191